



St. John Rigby Parish NEWSLETTER.

Incorporating the Former Parishes of Sacred Heart, Hindley Green, St. Richard's, Atherton & Sacred Heart, Hindsford.

Priest: Fr. Paul Seddon. (Tel: 883395)
Deacon: Ken Holding (Tel: 255834)

25th Dec. 2022. Christmas Day. A.

Christmas Day A

Saturday.

Sacred Heart 5pm.

Christmas Mass Intentions.

St. Richard's 7pm.

Christmas Mass Intentions.

Sunday 25th December

St. Richard's Church 9-30am.

Christmas Mass Intentions.

Sunday @ 11-00am.

Sacred Heart Church.

Christmas Mass Intentions.

Mon. 26th Dec. S H .10am

Eucharistic Service.

Tue 27th Dec. St.R's. 10-30am

Dennis Lilley.

Wed 28th Dec. SH. 12noon

Fr. Martin Delaney.

Thur 29th Dec. St.R's. 9-30am

(Please note the earlier time)

Tony Wood.

Fri. 30th Dec. SH .10am

Eucharistic Service.

Next week

New Years Eve

Sat 31st December. SH 5pm.

Liam Dalton.

New Years Day A.

1st January.

St. Richard's Church. 9-30am

Bill Michael.

Sunday @ 11-00am.

Sacred Heart Church.

William & Winifred Denton.

Please note that there are several choices of readings during Christmas. So the readings may differ depending on which Mass you attend.

Parish Centre open for functions.

Slimming World Tuesday Back in the New Year.

Friendship Club Wednesday, back in the New Year.

Craft every other Thursday Back in the New Year.

Pray for our sick

Joan Baines.

Eileen McAlister.

Joyce Gorton.

Nora Smith.

Jed Bamber.

Cheryl Morris.

Pat Woodward.

Shelia Ratcliffe.

Maureen Blears.

Jean Culkin.

Phyllis Smith.

Harry Doyle.

Janina Herko.

Peter Weatherhead.

Neil Gunson.

Jean Rafferty.

Teresa Gallagher.

Dennis Green.

Jimmy Allen.

Elaine Owen.

Frank Vose.

Sheila Holden.

Teresa Ward.

Christopher Holding.

Doreen Hayes.

(Organist)

Dominic Kearns.

Mary Griffin.

Lately Dead

John Stafford.

Evelyn Griffin.

Anthony Wood.

Sheila Nyland.

Norah Hampson.

Keith Whittle.

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Anniversaries

Jeff Byron.

Anthony Sutton.

Liam Dalton.

Andrea Robinshaw.

Vincent Moore.

Kevin McLoughlin.

Kathleen Horan.

Michael Kennedy.

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READINGS FOR THE WEEKEND.

First Reading- Isaiah 52:7-10.

The great hymn of joy at the return of the exiles from Babylon is also a poem of joy for our redemption today.

Second Reading Letter to the Hebrews 1:1-6.

The whole history of God's dealings with his people in the past was a preparation for the coming of his Son at Christmas.

Gospel Reading – John 1:1-18.

A great hymn to the Word of God, the source of all life, whose coming among us makes us the children of God.

Fr. Strowbridge is living in Ash tree House Boarsdane Ave.

He would welcome visitors but not at mealtimes as he likes his food.

If anyone would like to add any items for the Newsletter each week then please let Deacon Ken or Fr. Paul know by Wednesday evening at the latest.

Deacon Ken – ka.holding1@gmail.com

Fr. Paul – stjohrigby@rcaol.org.uk

GOSPEL REFLECTION.

Christmas is all about the Incarnation. The Incarnation means that God's Son came down on earth, took on our human nature in order to make us God's children. The mystery of the Incarnation is a mystery of love. It is at the very centre of the Christian faith. In Jesus, God drew near to us in person. He became one of us. He lived among us. Jesus is the gift of Christmas. This was no loving "at a distance". God wanted to be close to his people and shared his love for us by giving us his only Son.

God meet us where we are. He took our humanity on himself. This means we don't have to deny or reject our humanity in order to know God. He showed us how to live out the fullness of our humanity, religion and holiness have become very real. They are not merely concerned with the Spirit and with Heaven, but with the body and the earth. By becoming a child, completely dependant on human care, God took away the distance between the divine and the human. We are called to be not afraid – how can we be afraid of a little child? The Son of God has come to us, not as a judge, but as a Saviour. He comes to reveal to us our divine dignity as God's children., and the glory of our eternal destiny in Heaven. This IS the GOOD NEWS. This is the great joy which the angels announced to the shepherds, and which is announced to us this Christmas time.

As we celebrate this great feast, let us remember that we are called to share this Good News too, not necessarily but what we say, but by the way we live out our faith each day. Let us pray that the new-born King will bring us peace and love this Christmas, and that we, in our turn, may share this hope, love and joy to everyone we meet. Happy Christmas to you all!

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION 2023.

Please note that children who are in Year Four or above are being invited to celebrate their First Holy Communion in the New Year. So please watch out for any meetings. Dates of the First Holy Communion celebrations and the preparation meetings will be published early in the New Year. Please watch this space for further details.

DONATIONS TO UKRAINE.

To donate, text:

HELPUKRAINE to 70085 to donate £2.

HELPUKRAINE to 70450 to donate £3.

HELPUKRAINE to 70460 to donate £5.

HELPUKRAINE to 70470 to donate £10.

Texts will cost the donation amount plus one standard network rate message.

MANY THANKS.

Many thanks to everyone who donated blankets and other goods to the Ukrainian appeal recently. All the goods have now arrived in the Ukraine to help the people in their plight at this awful time. Please keep them in your prayers. We will continue to say the Rosary to pray for peace before or after Mass at both churches during the week.

WARM AND COSY.

Our Parish centre at St. Richard's Atherton will be open Thursdays after 10-30am Mass. There will be free tea, coffee and biscuits, access to TV and Wi-Fi and friendly company. (Please note that Mass next Thursday will begin at the earlier time of 9.30am. This is because Fr.Paul is celebrating a funeral in St.Helens at 11am)

Walsingham Pilgrimage.

Parish of St. John Rigby Pilgrimage to Walsingham 14th -17th August 2023, a deposit of £20 is required to secure a place. There is a list in the porch. Please add your name & number if you are interested.

Response to the Psalm....

"All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God."